CLAIMS

1   1.   A computer-implemented method of automatically updating television
2   schedule data for a plurality of serially-scheduled events telecast on the same channel,
3   each event having a starting time and a duration, the method comprising:

4   selecting a first one of said events that will extend beyond a scheduled duration
5   thereof;

6   identifying a second one of said events as being the last one of a subset of said
7   events for which starting times will be effected by the overrun of said first event; and

8   automatically updating schedule information data for each of said subset of
9   events based upon information about said overrun.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said second event is identified by
2   indicating the number of said events, relative to said first event, for which the start times
3   will be delayed by an amount of time corresponding to said overrun.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said channel is one of a plurality of
2   channels, the method further comprising:

3   selecting said one of said plurality of channels; and

4   displaying schedule information about a plurality of events being telecast via the
5   selected channel;

6   wherein said first event is selected from the plurality of events being displayed.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein for each event, at least the scheduled
2   starting date, starting time and event name are displayed.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein for each event, at least one of the
2   duration and the end time are displayed.

1   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein:

2   a channel schedule for said selected channel is represented by a database of Java
3   objects, and

4 the displayed schedule information is represented by copies of a subset of said

5 Java objects from said database.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein initially only ones of said copies can be

2 effected by overrun-related schedule changes until said changes are approved by a user,

3 then corresponding Java objects in said database are automatically updated and

4 displayed.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the telecast is a digital terrestrial

2 television broadcast that is compliant with the American Television Standards

3 Committee (ATSC), each event is a program, and said schedule data is program and

4 system information (PSIP) data, the method further comprising:

5 overwriting, upon approval by a user, PSIP data corresponding to the updated

6 Java objects.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the overwritten PSIP data is the event

2 information table (EIT).

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the following fields,

2 event_id, start_time and length_in_seconds, of the EIT is overwritten.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of serially-scheduled events

2 are each shifted in their entirety such that said second event is also the last one of said

3 plurality of serially-scheduled events to be shifted in its entirety, or

4 wherein all of said plurality of serially-scheduled events except said second event

5 are each shifted in their entirety such that said second event is truncated by being the first

6 one of said plurality of serially-scheduled events to have the starting time thereof delayed

7 but have the duration thereof truncated so as to preserve a starting time of a event

8 immediately subsequent to said second event.

1   12.   The method of claim 8, wherein a default is for the second event to be
2   truncated unless an indication is given that said second event is to be shifted in its
3   entirety.

1   13.   The method of claim 1, wherein a start time for each of said plurality of
2   serially-scheduled events is delayed according to said overrun.

1   14.   The method of claim 10, wherein an end time for each of said plurality of
2   serially-scheduled events except said second event is delayed according to said overrun.

1   15.   The method of claim 11, wherein an end time for said second event also is
2   delayed according to said overrun.

1   16.   The method of claim 1, wherein the telecast is a digital television
2   broadcast.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein said digital television broadcast is a
2   terrestrial broadcast.

1   18.   The method of claim 16, wherein said terrestrial broadcast is compliant
2   with the American Television Standards Committee (ATSC), each event is a program,
3   and said schedule data is program and system information (PSIP) data.

1   19.   A computer-readable article of manufacture having embodied thereon a
2   computer program comprising a plurality of code segments to perform the method of any
3   one of claims 1.

1   20.   An event and system information (PSIP) generator operable to carry out
2   the method of any one of claims 1.
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